

**Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-7 and 9-15 and add new claims 16-21 as indicated below.

1. Cancelled
2. Cancelled
3. Cancelled
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14. Cancelled
15. Cancelled
16. (New) An elevator apparatus comprising:

an actuating device including a sheave around which a rope engaged with an ascending and descending cage is wound, said sheave being adapted to rotate thereby to move said rope with its rotation, and a driving section for rotating said sheave, and

a disc member having a plurality of posts to which external teeth gears are idly inserted, and serving as a side wall of a housing of the driving section; and

a shielding body for shielding said actuating device,

wherein:

the sheave, a speed reducer, the driving section and a brake assembly are integrated in the actuating device;

said speed reducer and said drive assembly are arranged coaxially to one another;

an output wheel of said speed reducer constitutes said sheave, so that said speed reducer is arranged radially inwardly of said sheave; and

said actuating device and said shielding body are installed on a rooftop of a building in which said ascending and descending cage is disposed, said shielding body being readily detachable from said rooftop.

17. (New) The elevator apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising a motor having an axis of rotation, wherein said brake assembly overlaps with the motor in a plane normal to the axis of rotation.

18. (New) The elevator apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the plurality of posts are located on a first side of the disc member and a second side of the disc member constitutes an inner face of the housing of the driving section.

19. (New) The elevator apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the shielding body is slightly larger than an outer shape of the actuating device.

20. (New) The elevator apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the shielding body is sufficiently compact, accessible and light weight as to be readily detached from said rooftop when an operator conducts maintenance work on the actuating device.

21. (New) The elevator apparatus according to claim 16, wherein an installation area of the actuating device is smaller than a cross sectional area of the cage.